

June 9, 2023

Key Takeaways

- Case rates of COVID-19 are at a seasonal low. COVID-19 hospitalization rates in Virginia rose slightly with a 29% increase from the previously recorded week.
- New York City has detected a high concentration of COVID-19 in the wastewater. Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have not begun to rise, indicating that this may be a early warning of a wave.
- Maryland has confirmed its first case of measles since 2019 in Montgomery County, which borders DC and Virginia.
- Canadian wildfire smoke caused air quality alerts and flight delays for millions of people in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. New York City had the worst air pollution of any major city in the world at one point Tuesday night.

Key Figures

Air Quality Forecast 6/9/2023

Today's Forecast						Tomorrow's Forecast				
Region	AQI	Class	Pollutant	Activity Caution	Risk Groups	AQI	Class	Pollutant	Activity Caution	Risk Groups
HAMPTON ROADS	78	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.	93	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	78	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.	100	Moderate	OZONE_PPB	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.	Children and people with asthma are the groups most at risk.
RICHMOND	97	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.	84	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
ROANOKE	78	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.	84	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.
WINCHESTER	95	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.	87	Moderate	PM25LC	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.	People with respiratory or heart disease, the elderly and children are the groups most at risk.

Source: [DEQ](#)

COVID-19

23%

Chance that the WHO will identify a new COVID-19 Variant of Concern before 2024. (Metaculus [forecast](#))

119

COVID-19 [hospital admissions](#) in Virginia for the week ending June 3.

Mpox

4.1

Metaculus [forecast](#) of the number of mpox cases Virginia will experience in Q2, 2023

Air Quality

236 vs. 100

Northern Virginia air quality index (AQI) on June 8 vs. [forecasted AQI](#) on June 10.

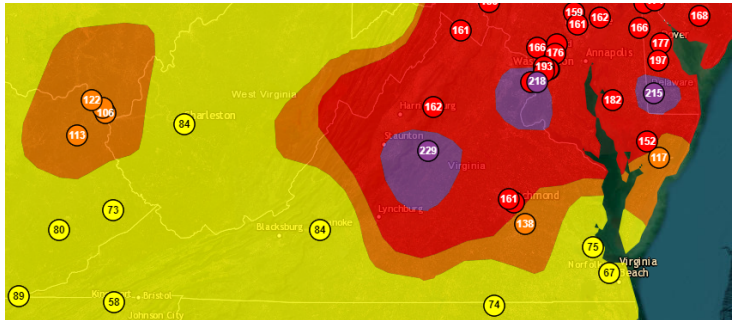
180 vs. 87

Winchester AQI on June 8 vs. [forecasted AQI](#) on June 10.

Spotlight: Air Quality

Forecasts are italicized

Spotlight



Air quality map of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) covering Virginia on Thursday, June 8th at 2:00 PM. Image Source: [AirNow](#).

- **Model suggests that plumes of smoke will continue to cycle through the Northeast and Ohio Valley into Friday.** By Saturday, a greater westerly component to the wind should reduce the smoke. However, smoke risk will persist until fires are contained and their size diminished.

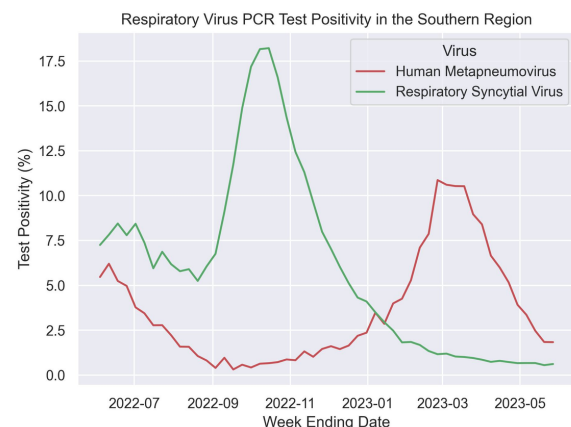
Other News

- **One case of measles confirmed in Montgomery County, Maryland.** This is the first reported case in the state since 2019. The county advised anyone who visited the Cabin John Ice Rink in Bethesda on May 24 or a professional office in Gaithersburg on May 30 may have been exposed to measles and should monitor themselves for symptoms.
- **High concentrations of COVID detected at all 14 New York City wastewater treatment plants.** "High" detection level category means likely 50 or more cases per 100,000 people. Reported COVID-19 cases have remained relatively flat since mid-April. Hospitalizations and deaths have also remained relatively flat.
- **A shooting following a graduation ceremony in Richmond resulted in two deaths and five gunshot injuries.** Others were injured trying to flee. Richmond schools were closed for the end of the academic year, with Superintendent Jason Kamras noting that three more RPS students were shot in the evening following the incident.

Air Quality

- **Air quality alerts for parts of US due to more than 400 Canadian wildfires.** More than 75 million people in the eastern US were under air quality alerts Wednesday due to the smoke. As of June 6, Canada is reporting 431 active fires, with the majority (235) rated "out of control."
- **Wildfire smoke impacting flights at Northeast airports.** The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) paused all flights inbound for airports in New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia. As of Thursday, flights have just been delayed as the FAA monitors visibility.
- **New York state is making 1 million N95 masks available to the public.** Masks are being distributed to state-owned facilities in the NYC area, and are being made available to local governments for further distribution.
- **Wildfire smoke can harm people in multiple ways.** Small particles in smoke can enter the eyes and respiratory system causing a variety of symptoms. While any one can be affected, people with heart and lung disease, children, seniors, and people who are obese or have diabetes may be at increased risk.

- **CDC raises concerns over a surge in human metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases.** At its 2023 peak in mid-March, nearly 11% of specimens for the virus were positive — a number roughly 36% higher than the standard peak of seven percent positivity.
- **FDA approves Pfizer's vaccine for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in older adults.** FDA's decision is based on the data from the Phase 3 clinical trial, which included approximately 37,000 participants.



Respiratory virus PCR test positivity in the Southern Region, which includes Virginia. Data Source: [NREVSS](#).